



The Grade 0 – 3 girls enjoyed an exciting and entertaining production of *Peter and the Wolf*

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Dear parents

In a *Just Junior* article last year I remarked that schools, by definition, are places of change. I was speaking then about the changes brought about in your daughters through the education and socialisation they experience at school; now I am referring to something more visible: how much they have grown! On my return, I was dazzled and confounded by the change in the girls – taller, looser-limbed, thinner in the face, bolder or suddenly more self aware, openly curious or newly guarded, unaffectedly happy or adolescently arch – I have missed so much. And how will I ever catch up? By asking questions, I suppose, and risking the impatience and bewilderment of children who have moved on and whose days are too full to admit another story: a Grade 1 girl's, "Where were you again?" as compared with a child in Little Saint's perfectly legitimate, "Why are you here?"

Of course, it is not just the girls who change: the school shifts, too, even in so short a time, and in subtle and not so subtle ways. The introduction of new facilities and features brings with it critical changes in emphasis and attitude; movement among the staff and recalibrated portfolios indicate a direction for the school and the mapping of previously uncharted territory; discussions with parents respond to pressures and creative tensions felt in and outside the school. To put it plainly: there's a lot going on. And to point out that there's a lot going on when you're at home with a new baby as well is not to try and compete with the busyness of school, but to force a connection between the two locations that is so often obscured.

While I was at home receiving communication from the school on email, through the school app and the class WhatsApp group, in my daughter's homework book and from what she reported verbally, I became conscious of a kind of noise that was interfering with the effective transmission of all messages. The noise was generated by a non-specific feeling of anxiety that I might misconstrue an instruction, miss an obvious cue, or get something

wrong. Partly, my reaction had to do with tiredness, but it also had to do with something else that I had been shielded from when I was at work: the pressure as a parent, but particularly a mother, to be perfect. I watched as mothers sought assurance from each other that they were doing the right thing, clarified and reclarified that they had understood the latest communication correctly, or gently pushed the class representative to engage with the daily demands of the school on their behalf in case they made a mistake, messed up, or got it wrong.

We speak a lot about rising anxiety levels in the girls and how to address them, but all too often, in any discussion about parental anxiety – again, anxious mothers in particular – we are quick to pathologise the behaviour without attempting to uncover its origins. This tendency to look inwards and find fault with mothers, what they do and don't do at every turn, keeps us from engaging critically with the socio-political forces that shape our lives and make things feel, frankly, out of control. If anything, my time at home with both my daughters made me realise how easily the desire to do the best we can for our children mutates into the fear of getting anything wrong – the girl power "We can do anything" escalated to the profoundly disempowering "We must do everything" and all, as *New York Times* bestselling author Judith Warner observes "at an incredibly high level of performance". This is why I am ending this article, not with another pronouncement on what you should do, but with a heartfelt request: let's work together, with real intent, to create an environment that enables us to look outwards and raise our girls to develop reasonable, clear-sighted expectations of themselves and the world they were born to change.

DR SARAH WARNER
HEADMISTRESS: JUNIOR SCHOOL

NOTICE BOARD - PLEASE SEE PAGE 9 FOR ALL OUR IMPORTANT NOTICES

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The Second Station: Jesus takes up his cross

Jesus bends forward under the weight of the cross, which represents our sins. The red bird of the first Station has now become a living white bird representing our redemption and the crown of thorns bears a resemblance to the Star of David. The two figures at the bottom represent a suffering world and the coloured lines between these figures and Jesus indicate the turmoil of humanity.

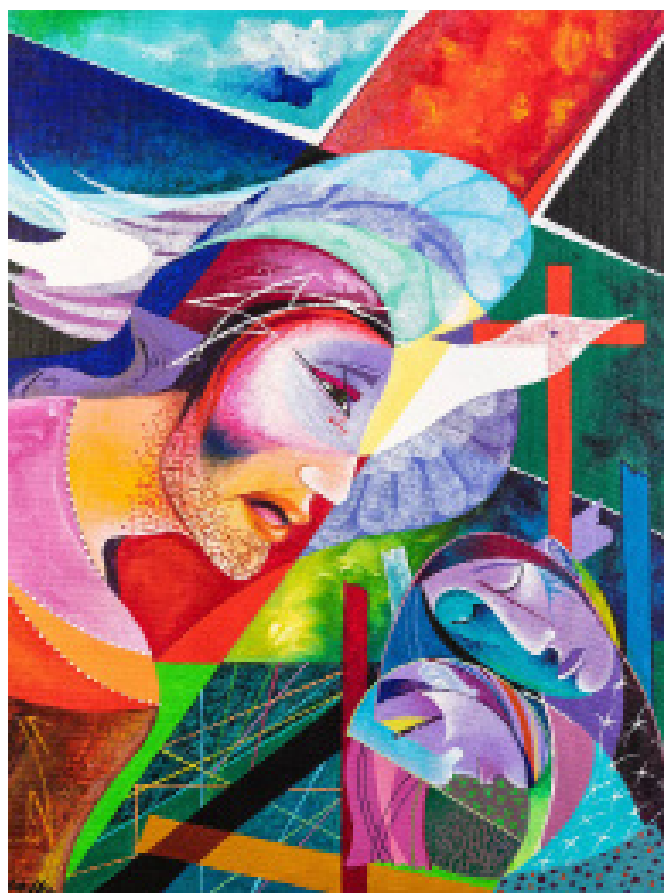
Joseph Capelle

The juxtaposition of suffering and hope are stark in this depiction of the Second Station. Christ accepts his cross, knowing that he must suffer for a world that suffers. Yet, at the centre of the painting is the image of hope and of the presence of the Holy Spirit: the dove, almost translucent yet very present.

What aspect of our world comes to mind, when we observe this depiction of suffering and turmoil? It is onto our world that we are reminded to see the image of Christ and of hope crucified superimposed, as we lift our world to God in prayer, and consider the implications of Christ's words to us:

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

Mark 8:34-37



**REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN**

MEET THE BOARD

Loyiso Nongxa

Loyiso Nongxa is a proud father of a St Mary's School old girl, Buhle Nongxa (2011-2015). He has been on the Board since 2013 and is also a director of the St Mary's Foundation. He spent 18 years at University of the Witwatersrand as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Vice-Chancellor and Principal for 10 years and as Professor of Mathematics for five years.

Loyiso was educated at Healdtown High School, a school in the Eastern Cape that was established by the Methodist Church in the 1850s. He studied at University of Fort Hare where he completed a MSc in the Mathematics. He was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford University where he completed his PhD in Mathematics. He taught at various universities in Southern Africa before moving into university management. He is an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford and Vice-President of the International Mathematical Union.

Loyiso has served as a trustee on a number of education foundations. At Wits, he started an access-for-success programme aimed at identifying high potential youths in marginalised communities and providing them with opportunities to gain access to and succeed in university degree programmes with low enrolment of black and female students.



MEET THE BOARD CONTINUED

Alan Pullinger

Alan Pullinger joined the St Mary's school Board in 2014 and is also the chairman of the Finance Committee.

Alan and his wife, Elaine, have three daughters: Taylor (23) who graduated from Brown University in the US in 2018 and is busy with further post-graduate biomedical studies at Mount Sinai in Manhattan; Lexi (20), is studying medicine at Wits; and Erin (15) is currently in Grade 9 at St Mary's School. Both Taylor and Lexi are St Mary's Old Girls.

Alan is currently the CEO of FirstRand Limited. He joined FirstRand's RMB division in 1998 and was appointed CEO of RMB in 2008 before being appointed Group CEO in 2018. He matriculated at Bryanston High School and completed his MCom (Accounting) at Wits. He is a qualified CA(SA) and CFA, completing his articles with Deloitte where he became a partner before joining RMB.

Alan met Elaine (also a CA(SA)) while studying at Wits. Apart from spending time with his family, Alan enjoys the odd bit of running, cycling and trying to prove that surfing is not only for youngsters (this last endeavour is yet to be conclusively proved).



THE EMBRACE SYMPOSIUM

Decolonising the curriculum – A reflection

"We forget that our particular moment, with all its tribulations and triumphs, is not neatly islanded in the river of time but swept afloat by massive cultural currents that have raged long before it and will rage long after."

- Zadie Smith

Representatives from St Mary's Senior Primary and Senior School were given the opportunity to attend the Embrace Symposium hosted by St Benedict's College. The purpose of the event was to look at ways in which we might transform education through social justice. Words like inclusivity, transformation and diversity are increasingly popular terms heard in the rhetoric of education. None, however, is as misunderstood or misused as the term decolonisation. Many of the guest speakers appealed to educators, student leaders and heads of school to re-evaluate this term and to examine more critically what content teachers choose to include in our curricula and what pedagogies inform our delivery of that curricula. Decolonisation challenges us to engage in ongoing, critical reflection and discovery as a collective. It challenges us not to accept stereotypes and to disrupt the concept of a single, dominant narrative.

Peter Ruddock, an assessment specialist at the IEB, suggested that decolonisation is "essentially a demand for critical literacy" which requires teachers and students alike to recognise that nothing in the acquisition of knowledge or in the teaching and learning process is neutral. He cautioned us against thinking in terms of replacing one culture with another and urged us rather to think about critical thinking skills, different perspectives and previously marginalised voices.

Professor Anthony Brown discussed how teachers should be self-reflective in their practice and should not make assumptions about students anymore. We bear some of the responsibility for investigating more fully what it means to be South African in our current contexts.

Professor Petra du Preez explored the complexity of the term diversity itself. She proposed that we should avoid seeing this as a term pertaining only to race. To create truly diverse, inclusive learning communities we have to explore our beliefs about language, culture, gender, and learning abilities.

Father Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest and social justice activist, urged us to consider the ways in which we need to heal and be healed as a result of the injustices of our past. His message reinforced the need to consider our common humanity, ways in which we can actively listen to another's story and what collective healing might look like.

Tshepang Molisana, writer, editor and winner of the 2016 Veritas Young Wine Writer Award, described the challenges of forging a career as a young writer and wine connoisseur. She spoke about the need for resilience, a good sense of humour and the ability to try again (and again) after experiencing failure. In an age where young girls have been fed a diet of perfectionism, she embodies the power of learning from your mistakes.

All of the speakers were inspirational. We, as a school community, need to explore how we can apply some of what was shared in order to bring about meaningful change.

LAUREN HOWDEN
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Singing Sistas 2019

The Singing Sistas Festival was held from 4 to 7 March and had a packed programme of performances. This was the ninth year of the St Mary's Singing Sistas Festival, all of which have been held on The Edge stage. This year's combined festival, including the high schools' choirs which performed, showcased more than 1 100 girls on stage being brought together by the power of music.

I am incredibly proud of the St Mary's Senior Primary choir and the Junior School chamber choir which performed at a high standard on both evenings of the festival. The other schools which participated in this event include St Peter's, Auckland Park Preparatory, St Stithians, St Andrew's and Kingsmead.

A huge thank you to all involved in helping to make the festival a success. It is a wonderful platform to showcase what the girls have been learning, and a great place to build comradery in the wider community between schools.

Here are a few comments from the girls about the festival:

"It was nice to perform on both evenings, because we got to see all the schools perform." – Alice Thiel

"I liked that there were so many new people to meet."
– Nadia Willis-Chimanga

"I liked cheering on the other schools and making new friends."
– Lebone Ramokgopa

"It felt like all the other schools were supportive of each other."
– Alexandra Kobus

"We were having so much fun on stage!" – Kgaugelo Makgatho

CAROL SHUTTE
HEAD OF MUSIC: JUNIOR SCHOOL



FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

Olga Kern piano concert

I had the opportunity to attend a superb recital by Russian pianist Olga Kern on Saturday 16 March at the Linder Auditorium. Her world-class playing delighted the audience, including seven young St Mary's girls who attended the concert with their parents. Ms Kern was gracious to meet us after the performance and remarked how lovely it was to have young musicians in the audience.

EUGENE JOUBERT
HEAD OF PIANO STUDIES



From left to right:

Georgina Pearce, Catherine Desilla, Eugene Joubert, Claudia Cunningham, Olga Kern, Kimaya Shah-Naidoo, Ella Mundell, Kathryn Breedveld, Kiara Fussell

GRADE 4 EKPHRASTIC POETRY

The Winter Horses by Lucy Barrow

The winter horses
gallop and fling snow with their hooves.
A thick coat of snow lies like a rug.
Yellow horizon wakes a sunny morning.
Great leafy trees tower above the snow.
Long frozen grass pushes through the snow.
Pricked ears,
swishing manes and whisking tails.
Strong winter horses,
cantering side by side.

Golden Autumn by Cayla Wilkinson

Towering brown trees
sway in the breeze

Golden Autumn, golden Autumn

Rough long branches
in straight rows

Golden Autumn, golden Autumn

Wide smooth path,
a peaceful place

Golden Autumn, golden Autumn

Gentle yellow sky
with a pale sunrise

Golden Autumn, golden Autumn

Crispy leaves
in warm colours

Golden Autumn, golden Autumn

Secret Forest by Annabel Stainer

Frosty trees.
A chilly waterfall splashes
onto slippery rocks.
Crisp air. Sunset.

Soft moss on marble rocks.
Purple and blue bushes
grow next to the stream.
Wind blows softly against
the tall trees.
A place that is calm
and quiet.

The Icy Morning Forest by Holly Cairns

Burnt, black trees, bare
and towering tall.
Giant forest beside a large pond.
Calm sun in a multi-coloured sky.
Vivid blue water,
soft silver snow.
It is so wonderful to go there.
Christmas time is coming soon.

CHRISTI LAWLESS
TEACHER: SENIOR PRIMARY

LITTLE SAINTS NEWS

All about eyes

The Grade 00 children have been investigating eyes. They have looked at various photographs of eyes and have given their theories on how they think the eye works. Aleeza Ghoor's mother, an ophthalmologist, came to speak to the children. She discussed how the eye functions and she compared our eyes to those of a camera lens. She spoke about how wearing glasses helps people to see clearly and she discussed the importance of taking care of our eyes by protecting them from the sun by wearing sunglasses.

The children started to wonder about blindness and what it would feel like. They were intrigued to discover that Jo Futselaar, a St Mary's girl in Form I who is blind, was coming to speak to them. In preparation for Jo's visit, the children thought of questions they would like to ask her. Jo shared how she views the world with the children and answered all their questions. The children loved meeting Jo, and not only did they learn a lot from her but she left a special mark in their hearts.

The next surprise the children received was a visit from Mel Morrison and her guide dog in training, Murphy. Mel taught the

children all about how a dog becomes a guide dog and how to look after them. The children were delighted to have a special dog at school.

Thank you to all those who were involved in our investigation.

Parent workshop

On Saturday 2 March, the parents attended a Reggio workshop at Little Saints. There was much excitement as the parents had the opportunity to spend the morning experiencing a day in the life of their child, learning more about the Reggio approach. Celia Diana started with a brief history of Reggio Emilia and focused on the core aspects of the philosophy. The parents were divided into four groups and together with a teacher, they completed some practical activities such as drawing and working with clay. It was an enjoyable morning for all those involved.

CELIA DIANA
HOD: LITTLE SAINTS



WORLD MATHEMATICS DAYS



The girls from Grade 1 to 7 celebrated World Maths Day doing different kinds of Maths activities ranging from board to online games

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A very enthusiastic group of Grade 7s interacted with the residents of Waverley Gardens Memory Care and handed out chocolates as a belated Valentine's Day treat. Thanks to all the families and girls who donated the chocolates and sweet treats last month.



FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



NETBALL

Congratulations to Ilana Buck in Grade 6 and Mikayla de Bruin in Grade 7 who have been selected to represent D13 netball in their respective age groups at the Gauteng trials in April.

ANTOINETTE MSHENGU
COACH: NETBALL



Ilana Buck



Mikayla de Bruin

EQUESTRIAN

The St Mary's Junior School equestrian team, made up of Riley Bate, Tiana Serandos and Katherine Franck, achieved phenomenal results at SANESA Qualifier 2. The South African National Equestrian School Association (SANESA) held Qualifier 2 on 2 and 3 March at the Eaton Farm show ground. The Junior School girls participated in a variety of disciplines at a variety of different levels including: Show Jumping, Equitation, Handy Hunter and Dressage.

St Mary's Junior School are fifth in their category and we are very proud of all the girls' achievements! We look forward to seeing our girls excel in the upcoming qualifiers.

Top 10 placings in Qualifier Two

Level 5

Show Jumping : Katherine Franck on Bodenhausen la Chocholetier - 1st and 2nd

Level 4

Equitation: Katherine Franck on Simply Sebastian - 6th

Level 3

Handy Hunter: Katherine Franck on Simply Sebastian - 2nd

Level 2

Show Jumping: Riley Bate on Dreamer - 6th

Level 1

Dressage: Riley Bate on Dreamer - 9th

Equitation: Riley Bate on Dreamer - 2nd

NICOLA BERLIN
EQUESTRIAN VICE-CAPTAIN: SENIOR SCHOOL



Katherine Franck on Bodenhausen la Chocholetier



Riley Bate on Dreamer

NOTICES



The HOPE Committee
 Hearing Other People's Experiences
 A sub-committee of the PTA to encourage parent conversations around diversity
hope@stmary.co.za





St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

Piano Department
presents a

Piano Concert

Monday 1 April 2019
17h00
Room LG05, The Edge



